care in a medical home promotes physical, oral and emotional health, and sets the stage for children and adolescents to be ready to learn and to experience success."

Other key partners in the HRL initiative include: the School Nurses Association of North Carolina, N.C. Healthy Start Foundation, Action for Children, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Rural Health and Community Care, N.C. Healthy Schools, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, the Office of the Governor and the N.C. Academy of Family Physicians.

Throughout her career, Gov. Perdue has championed expanded access to health care for children, in particular the role of child health in insuring children's ability to succeed in school and later in life. And as part of her health care roadmap, Gov. Perdue has worked to expand access to health care to all North Carolinians despite the economic crisis and historic budget shortfalls including the expansion of SCHIP by 9,098 children; a \$17 million federal competitive grant to expand coverage for uninsured working families; a \$9.3 million federal grant for children's health innovations; and nearly \$3.9 million for Rural Hope to improve health care facilities in rural North Carolina.

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